Creating a Color Wheel

Objectives:

1. Learn how to make accurate colors
2. Learn how to handle acrylic paints and a variety of brushes
3. Understand how you can apply color theory to your own art and express yourself more effectively
4. Practice using a protractor and compass (measuring skills in real life)
**Color Wheel:** a chart that shows color relationships.
The Primary Colors are Red, Yellow and Blue. You can make all of the other colors on the wheel by mixing these.
The Secondary Colors are Orange, Violet and Green. They are made by mixing the Primary Colors together.

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R+Y = O \\
B+R = V \\
B+Y = G
\]
The **Tertiary Colors** are made by mixing the Primary Colors and Secondary Colors together. For example:

- \( \text{R+O= R/O} \)
- \( \text{R+V= R/V} \)
- \( \text{B+G=B/G} \)
- \( \text{Y+O=Y/O} \)
- \( \text{Y+G=Y/G} \)
- \( \text{B+V=B/V} \)
Tint-
a lighter version of a color that is made by adding white

Shade-
a darker version of another color that is made by adding a dark color.
Complementary Colors are opposite from each other on the color wheel. These colors create a vibrant look, especially when the hues are pure.

(This color scheme should be managed well, because it can be too intense.)
Analogous Colors are beside each other on the color wheel

- They usually match well and create calm and comfortable designs. Make sure you have enough contrast when choosing an analogous color scheme.
We will use acrylic paint on watercolor paper. Watercolor paper is heavier than drawing paper and will not wrinkle when painted on. You will need a compass, protractor, ruler and pencil.
Your paper is 9” x 12”
Measure 9 inches down from top to bottom on both sides and draw a line so that you have a 9 inch square on the top part of the paper.

[Diagram of a 9 inch square on the top part of a paper]
Use the compass to draw a large circle that fills up the space. Next, draw a smaller one inside it. Use the protractor to divide your circle into 12 sections of 30 degrees each.
On the outside of your large circle, label the **Primary** colors: Red, Yellow and blue. Next, label the **Secondary** colors, orange, green and violet. Finally, label the **Tertiary** colors.
After we have finished measuring and labeling, we will begin by painting from yellow to yellow orange, to orange and them to red. Wash your brush frequently so that your colors don’t get muddy!
We will use the bottom section to paint a **gray scale** in 5 steps. Begin with white and add **small** amounts of black until you get to the final square, which will be completely black.
Evaluation:
All colors should be accurate and in the correct places. Label “P” “S” and “I” in the center circle. Your edges should be clean and sharp.

The gray scale should be neat (clean edges) and the shades should progress from white to black in equal steps.
After making your color wheel, draw an equilateral triangle on a small piece of poster board. Cut it out and attach it with a fastener to the center of your color wheel. It can be turned so that it points to color triads.